



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Monticello Ranger District
397 N Main Street, Monticello, Utah 84535

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Monticello Field Office
365 North Main Street, Monticello, Utah 84535



March 8, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with section 4103(b)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 USC 7913(b)(2)(A)(i)(II)), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service are providing notice that, as part of an ongoing land use planning process, the BLM and USDA Forest Service are proposing to close certain public lands within BENM to recreational shooting in alternatives being analyzed in the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The proposed closures in the action alternatives are intended to protect monument objects identified in Proclamation 10285 and to respond to public comments received during last year's scoping period. The proposed closures in the Draft RMP/EIS include:

- Alternative A (No Action Alternative/Current Management):
 - 2020 BENM Monument Management Plan:
 - Indian Creek SRMA: Recreational shooting would generally be allowed but would be prohibited at campgrounds/developed recreation sites, rock writing sites, and structural cultural sites.
 - Shash Jáa SRMA: Recreational shooting would generally be allowed but would be prohibited at campgrounds/developed recreation sites, rock writing sites, and structural cultural sites.
- Alternative B:
 - Recreational shooting would generally be allowed but would be prohibited at campgrounds/developed recreation facilities, climbing areas, designated trails, parking areas, trailheads, rock writing sites, structural cultural sites, and across roadways. Where problem areas regarding recreational shooting, the BLM would post signs notifying visitors of restrictions and would consider additional recreational shooting closures. Additional restrictions may apply where covered elsewhere in management actions.
 - Indian Creek RMZ: Recreational shooting would be prohibited.
 - San Juan River SRMA: Recreational shooting would be prohibited.
 - Approximately 16,857 acres would be closed to recreational shooting.
- Alternative C:
 - Same as Alternative B with the addition of:
 - Indian Creek SRMA: Recreational shooting would be prohibited.
 - Approximately 88,181 acres would be closed to recreational shooting.

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- Alternative D:
 - Same as Alternative C with the addition of:
 - Recreational shooting would be prohibited in WSAs, recommended wilderness, and protected lands with wilderness characteristics.
 - Approximately 904,353 acres would be closed to recreational shooting.
 - Alternative E:
 - Recreational shooting would be prohibited in the entirety of BENM.
 - Approximately 1.36 million acres would be closed to recreational shooting.

Notably, the proposed recreational shooting closures would not apply to hunters who are in lawful pursuit of game. Additional details on the proposed closures are included in the Draft RMP/EIS. The BLM and USDA Forest Service released the Draft RMP/EIS in March 2024 which initiated a public comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS and the proposed recreational shooting closures.

Sincerely,

Jacob Palma, BLM Monticello Field Office Manager

Michael Engelhart, USDA FS District Ranger
